

# **MINUTES**

**Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Task Force  
Thursday August 20, 2009  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Building  
93 Cottage Street**

**I. Call to Order at 8:30 AM**

*Members Present: Chair Paul Paradis; Police Chief Nate Young; Secretary Anne Krieg; Fred Cook; Mary Opdyke; Vice-Chair Chris Fogg; Harbormaster Charlie Phippen; Amy Powers; Greg Gordon.*

**II. Excused Absences**

*Opdyke moved, with a second from Powers, to excuse Bob Bahr from the meeting. All were in favor of the motion.*

**III. Minutes**

*Young moved, with a second from Cook, to approve the July 9, 2009 minutes as distributed. All were in favor of the motion.*

**IV. Adoption of agenda**

*Young moved, with a second from Opdyke, to adopt the agenda as presented. All were in favor of the motion.*

**V. Staff Reports**

**A. Report from Paul Paradis on conversation with Bay Ferries representative.**

Paradis reported that he has called multiple times, but has not received a call back. He will continue to call.

**B. Report from Paul Paradis on Council action on July 9, 2009 recommendations.**

Paradis reported that he e-mailed a summary of the August 4<sup>th</sup> Council action on CSSTF recommendations to the Task Force.

Paradis went over the recommendations the CSSTF made to Town Council on July 9, 2009, and the progress report he gave to the Council. He reported that pursuant to the July 9, 2009 recommendations, the Town Council tasked the CSSTF to work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a resident survey that gathers public opinion on cruise ship operations in Bar Harbor.

**C. Update from Anne Krieg on Recycling Bin project and maps**

Krieg reported that the Town did not receive funding for the recycling bins.

Krieg reported that the walking map sub committee met on August 5, 2009. She described the discussions the sub committee had regarding the map.

Krieg met with and went over the changes to the map with Z-Studios. Krieg said the map will go to the printer next week, and will be available for the September cruise ships.

Gordon asked whether the map would be for the land-based or cruise ship visitors. Krieg said that it was developed for both demographics.

Gordon said the existing maps at the downtown drop off center that explain how to get back to the pier are confusing. He requested that both points are highlighted on the existing maps.

Fogg said that the Chamber of Commerce will look into and take care of the request.

Powers suggested bolding the font for important locations on the new walking map. She identified the pier and drop off center as important locations.

Phippen said that the map needed to make a better note of the window of accessibility for Bar Island.

Powers asked how many brochures will be made. Krieg said that she would look at the budget to determine the quantity.

Powers suggested that the map has a “please recycle me” note. Charlie suggested putting a drop off box for the maps.

**D. Update from Anne Krieg and Chris Fogg on information kiosk and signage**

Krieg reported that she is in the process of seeking approval for the new kiosk location from the Land and Water Management Conservation Fund. She explains why the Town needs their approval to place the kiosk at the desired location.

Krieg said once she has permission from the Land and Water Management Conservation Fund, she will take the kiosk before the Design Review Board for their approval.

Fogg informed the Task Force the kiosk is built and waiting to be painted.

Krieg said that if the Town does not receive approval from the Land and Water Management Conservation Fund, the Task Force will need to have an alternative plan.

Powers and Fogg offered to send letters to the Department of Conservation (DOC) stating the purpose and importance of the kiosk for Bar Harbor. Anne said that she will provide contact information for the DOC.

Paradis inquired about the Design Review Board process and timeline. Krieg explained.

**VI. Regular Business**

**A. Request of Councilor Ruth Eveland for CSSTF input for the Council Committee Handbook project.**

Paradis turned the meeting over to Councilor Ruth Eveland.

Eveland explained the purpose of and material included in the handbook. She said that she is before the CSSTF to learn more about the work of the Task Force, and the organization of its meetings as well as the committee.

Paradis explained that the Task Force does have three “resident at-large” members; the Task Force meets as needed, which is typically on a monthly basis; the meetings last about two hours; and members have one hour of “homework” before each meeting.

Eveland asked what is unique about the Task Force, and what one should know if they are interested in joining the Task Force.

Paradis said that Task Force is charged with making operational recommendations to the Town Council, specifically they are charged with implementing recommendations in the Destination Management Plan.

Paradis identified that the CSSTF is different than other committees because each member is a stakeholder. Therefore, he said, they often have spirited discussions, but still get things done.

Anne said that the members are chosen because of their positions in the Cruise Ship industry.

Eveland informed the Task Force that once she is done with a draft of their committee, she will pass it along to them for their review.

**B. Continue discussion with Ocean Properties on future plans for West Street and service to Cruise Ship tenders and passengers.**

Eben Salvatore from Ocean Properties gave an update on their plans.

The Task Force discussed this issue in relation to the failure of Town Councils motion to resume tender operations at Town facilities, and their decision to table the issue pending the AARA Port Security Grant result.

Fogg asked whether the CSSTF should make a recommendation to Town Council about the use of the facility.

Paradis said that the Town Council tabled the issue, so the CSSTF has not been charged with that task.

Young informed the Task Force that he wrote the grant application assuming that the Town Pier received tender operations, and in response to the decision to table the issue by Town Council, he needs to inquire whether his application is legitimate. He said he is waiting hear the result of the grant before he makes this inquiry.

Phippen said that the Task Force should address the issue only if the following actions take place: the Town receives the grant; the Town Council approves the grant, and tasks the CSSTF with further analysis and recommendations.

Fogg asked about the applicability of the Destination Management Plan, and the duty of the CSSTF to discuss the issue in response to its recommendations.

The Task Force discussed the history of the Destination Management Plan, and the perspective from which it was created.

Young clarified that the Plan makes recommendations for the future, and that it is not policy.

Krieg noted that the plan was not funded by Bar Harbor.

Phippen said that the trigger for the tender operations subject was the decision and approval from Town Council to obtain a Facility Security Plan for the Town Pier. Once the plan was done, he said, the Task Force was tasked by the Town Council to discuss the matter.

Young said that he believed the Task Force is premature in discussing the status of the grant application. He will wait to get answers on the merit of the application as submitted, and then determine the actions that need to be taken. He informed the Task Force that the results of the grant will be announced on September 29, 2009.

### **C. Water Quality Testing**

#### **i. Review of Jane Disney's Report**

#### **ii. Future Recommendations**

Powers informed the Task Force that she received a call from Disney. Disney said that she has been hired by the MDI Biological Laboratory, and has the resources to conduct water quality testing. Powers said that she told Disney to contact Paradis to discuss the matter.

Phippen reported the results of his research on the regulations and monitoring mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Based on his research, he said that he believes the EPA has adequate regulations on cruise ships in place, and that he is not qualified to conduct water quality testing. He suggested that if the Task Force recommends to conduct regular water quality testing, it should be done by a certified individual, and paid for out of the budget.

Paradis asked Phippen whether he has a good idea of what should be tested.

Phippen said that he does, and that regular and random testing would ease concerned minds. He explained the difference between normal water quality testing, and the testing Disney did in 2005.

Fogg and Gordon asked whether the Task Force has the money to conduct water quality testing. Krieg said that she would check the budget.

Krieg said that testing should be scientific and strategic, or not done at all.

The Task Force discussed whether water quality testing at the local level is a duplication of services.

Powers identified the Vessel Discharge Permit mandated by the EPA and State of Maine as a sufficient auditing procedure.

Multiple members of the Task Force expressed concern that local testing was a duplication of services, and, thus, is unnecessary.

The Task Force discussed non-monetary ways to create local confidence in cruise ship operations without conducting water quality testing.

***Young moved to not recommend moving forward on water quality testing at the local level due to the fact that cruise ships are subject to compliance with State, Federal and International regulations and reporting that is currently in place. In addition, those documents are readily available for the Town. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.***

Paradis clarified the Town Council's request for the CSSTF to discuss local water quality testing within the context of the Destination Management Plan. He reads the recommendation P-7 from the Destination Management Plan, which recommends local testing. He said that he will write a memo to Town Council regarding the Task Force's discussion and recommendation on this issue.

#### **D. Resident Survey – methodology to move project forward**

Paradis asked the Task Force whether they wanted to create a sub-committee to draft the questions and methodology of the survey, or address the issue as a committee.

***Young moved to recommend that Chris Fogg, Amy Powers and Anne Krieg form a subcommittee responsible for drafting the resident survey questions. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.***

Gordon suggested that the sub-committee ask Todd Gabe for help when drafting the questions.

Fogg reminded the Task Force that the survey will be created using Survey Monkey, and a link will be posted on the Town website, which will allow residents to take the survey at their convenience.

#### **VII. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **VIII. Items for next agenda**

Report from Paul Paradis on conversation with Bay Ferries representative.

Report from Paul Paradis on Council action on August 20, 2009 recommendations.

Update from Anne Krieg on walking maps.

Update from Anne Krieg and Chris Fogg on information kiosk and signage.

Report from sub-committee on the resident survey.

Budge Planning.

#### **IX. Set next meeting time, date and place**

Wednesday September 23, 2009 at 11 AM.

#### **X. Adjournment**

***Young moved, with a second from Opdyke, to adjourn at 10:17 AM. All were in favor of the motion.***

These minutes were prepared by Planning Department Intern, Lauren Suerth, for review at the September 23, 2009 Cruise Ship Study Task Force Meeting.

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Anne Krieg  
Cruise Ship Study Task Force Secretary

Date